

to do it regardless of this filibuster. We are going to move the same number of judges that we could and should.

As far as it being payback time, we are not going to have payback time. As I told the Senator from Illinois, the way I feel about this, I believe we should set an example.

You know, you just want people to treat you the way you treat them. We are going to try to do our very best to show the country we are not going to treat the minority, the Republicans, during the time we are in the majority, the way we were treated. We are not going to have people wait around for years for a hearing. We are not, in effect, going to have people wait until they withdraw their nomination.

With all that is going on in the country today—office buildings being closed—I think it is a terrible mistake. We are going to move as quickly, as expeditiously as we can.

As I was saying when the Senator from Illinois stepped on the floor, we have \$3.9 billion in this bill for military assistance, including aid to NATO allies, countries in eastern Europe and central Asia. We are asking some of these same countries to really do good things for us. Should we tell our NATO allies that we have taken a timeout? Should we tell American workers hurt by the slowing economy that we have taken a timeout?

I believe global leadership means acting as a leader. We are the only superpower left in the world and we have an obligation to support those who are less fortunate than us. We simply have not done that.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask the Senator from Nevada if he will yield for a question.

Mr. REID. I am happy to yield for a question.

Mr. DURBIN. If I understand what the President has told us repeatedly, our war is not against Islam or the Afghan people. It is against terrorism and the countries that harbor terrorists. In this bill the Republicans have stopped on the Senate floor this morning, the foreign assistance and operations bill which President Bush asked us to pass, which Secretary of State Colin Powell said is important for his operation, the State Department, as he builds this coalition, is it not true we also include in this bill nutrition and health programs for the less fortunate around the world? Is it not also true that many of these programs will be the evidence that many of these people have that the United States is not at war with Islamic people, not at war with a certain religion, that we are, in fact, prepared to help them and help their children?

The fact that this Senate refuses to take up the bill the President has asked for is really hurting the administration's effort. What they are trying to do is send a message around the world. That is how I see it. I ask the Senator from Nevada if he reaches the same conclusion?

Mr. REID. I reach the same conclusion, I say to my friend from Illinois. I

studied a map yesterday of Afghanistan and the countries that surround Afghanistan and tried to learn a little more about Afghanistan, as we all are trying to do.

The life expectancy in Afghanistan today is 48 years for a man, 47 years for a woman. That is the life expectancy. In the United States, it is about 80 for both men and women.

Having been in Congress for a number of years, I have had the good fortune, for a number of reasons, to travel to other countries. I can remember going to a number of those refugee camps where food comes from the United States, money comes from the United States, to feed these orphans. A lot of them are orphans. When you go there, they know you are from America and they come, little kids, hanging on to you—some of them with very bloated stomachs, meaning they are malnourished. It is very sad that children who have done nothing to hurt anybody are victims of all this terrorism that is going on. They are victims of all the maldistribution of things around the world.

This bill is an effort by the United States, the way I see it in my eyes, to give just a little bit of the plenty that we have to help some of the less fortunate around the world.

This foreign aid bill is just a small amount of money of the trillions of dollars that we deal with here in Washington. But it is important to those countries. The Senator from Illinois is absolutely right. This money goes to people, mainly children around the world, who need help.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask the Senator from Nevada, I had the same experience he did in India and Bangladesh, India, a Hindu country and Bangladesh, largely Muslim. What I found was the poorest of God's creatures on Earth, people, literally mothers trying to raise children with nothing—nothing—who worried day to day whether they could feed them, and the United States, in its compassion, its understanding of its obligation to those less fortunate, provides financial assistance to the charitable organizations. In one case, in India it was Mother Teresa who was taking the money and feeding the poorest people. In Bangladesh, it was other organizations.

To make certain the record is clear, the money that these organizations would receive would come through this bill, this foreign operations appropriations bill which has been stopped on the floor of the Senate—according to the Senator from Nevada for almost 3 weeks or more—because some, in fact all Republican Senators but one—believe they want to stop the President's bill that would provide this food and medical care for the poorest children on Earth because they are not getting judges through the Senate Judiciary Committee at a fast enough pace.

Is that their argument?

Mr. REID. The Senator is absolutely right.

I want to stress this again. They acknowledge that they are getting judges, but they are not getting them fast enough, in spite of the September 11 terrorist acts and in spite of the anthrax terrorism. They should join with us to move this as quickly as possible.

The Judiciary Committee has maintained a steady schedule of hearings on judicial nominees of President Bush. We have confirmed twice as many judges as were confirmed in the same period of time during the two previous administrations. Remember that in one of those administrations there was a Democratic President and a Democratic Senate. Alongside the passing of an antiterrorism bill, we have continued to hold hearings on judicial nominees and to bring them to the Senate floor.

I don't know what more we can say. We have brought them to the floor for confirmation.

At a time when we have tried in every way to support the President's priorities, it is unfortunate that so soon after September 11 the Republican leadership seems to care more about its partisan political priorities than it does moving these nominees.

I think this deals with more than just judicial nominees. I think some people do not like foreign aid and the foreign aid bill. This is their way to kill something they really do not like. They are afraid to come on the floor and vote against this bill and offer amendments to this bill. They are going to do indirectly what they cannot do directly. They are saying this is about judges. I think what they want is a foreign aid bill such as we had last year with no new items in it: The Afghans—they will survive for centuries. A few will die. Let them die. So we cause a few problems. They deserve it.

I don't know what is going on here. But I think there is a different agenda. I think it is more than judges. I think they don't want this bill to go forward.

We have all been to townhall meetings. It is hard to defend foreign aid. Why are we giving money to those countries when we have people in America who are hungry?

I always supported foreign aid in the International Relations Committee in the House. I have always supported foreign aid bills. I have never voted against a foreign aid bill, and I don't intend to, because this superpower, of which I am a proud citizen, has the obligation to dispense a tiny bit of its largess on those who are less fortunate.

I think there is a different agenda here. I think people do not want to come forward and vote against a foreign aid bill. I think they want to be able to go home and say, we passed a foreign aid bill that is no bigger than it was last year.

Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. REID. I am happy to yield to the Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. DAYTON. I thank the Senator from Nevada.